

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Over Mashino in View of Taniguchi

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mashino (U.S. Patent No. 5,886,759) in view of Taniguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,099,134). Applicant traverses.

Distinctions of the invention over Mashino and Taniguchi were presented in the Amendment filed September 9, 2002. Neither Mashino nor Taniguchi disclose or suggest a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent. The Examiner admits this failure of Mashino at page 3, lines 11-14 of the Office Action, stating: "Mashino discloses a LCD device having a backlight device that is basically the same as that recited in claims 1-10 except that the printing portion is made of mixing colors instead of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent."

The Examiner then turns to Taniguchi to assert that this reference teaches a light scattering agent. However, Taniguchi only discloses that dots are formed on the light guide plate in convex or concave shape. Taniguchi fails to teach or suggest a diffusing sheet, a protecting sheet, and a reflector including colorless ink containing a light scattering agent.

It is clear that the Examiner mistakes the dot pattern of Taniguchi for the light scattering agent of the invention. At page

3, lines 14-18 of the Office Action, the Examiner states: "Taniguchi discloses a LCD device comprising a liquid crystal cell array and a back light device including a light guide plate and an optical member which is disposed on the top or bottom surface of the light guide plate and ***provided with convex-shaped dots capable of scattering light rays*** so that luminance of the back light device is uniform." (Emphasis added) The Examiner then asserts that it would be obvious "to modify the back light device of Mashino with the teaching of Taniguchi by forming a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent. . . ." Office Action at page 4, lines 4-6.

In comparison, the invention utilizes organic or inorganic fine particles as the light scattering agent. The inorganic fine particles can typically be glass beads, silica, talc, titanium oxide, barium sulfate, aluminum oxide, aluminum hydroxide, calcium carbonate, quartz, etc. An organic material usable as a light scattering agent can be cross-linked polymer fine particles.

As a result, neither Mashino nor Taniguchi disclose or suggest using a light scattering agent as is set forth in independent claims 1 and 3. Therefore, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by the teachings of Mashino and Taniguchi to produce a claimed embodiment of the invention. Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made over

independent claims 1 and 3. Claims dependent upon independent claims 1 and 3 are patentable for at least the above reasons alone.

Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

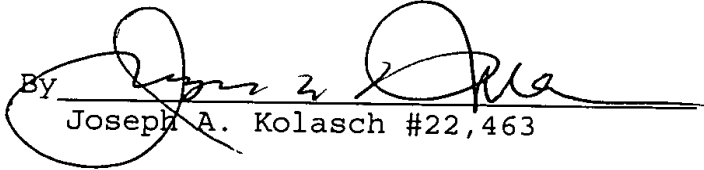
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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